# United States Patent

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[54] **KEYBOARD ASSEMBLY**
**17 Claims, 2 Drawing Figs.**


[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **340/365,** 340/345
[51] **Int. Cl.** ..... **G08b 11/00**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 340/345, 347, 365, 166, 172.5, 171



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**ABSTRACT:** A keyboard assembly for detecting closures in a plurality of switches places in rows and columns to form a matrix or keyboard, each switch representing a distinct data item, includes a signal source continuously operating first and second shift registers in asynchronous relation to each other to provide a distinct register setting for each of the switches. Whenever one of the switches is closed, a control circuit interrupts or arrests the continuous operation of the first and second shift registers in the distinct setting representing the closed switch and shortly thereafter supplies a strobe signal to enable a data utilization device to receive a coded representation of the distinct setting from a read only memory coupled to and controlled by the first and second shift registers.